

REMARKS

The claim rejection set forth by the Examiner fails to take into account various differences that distinguishes the present invention from Kelly '426, Kelly '611, and LeStrange '079.

Unlike LeStrange '079 and Kelly '426, the present invention is a self-contained unit within an existing mechanism and features of a skill enhanced electronic redemption bingo machine. Prior art envisions a server or host unit to maintain accounting features or, in the alternative, a separate processor unit placed or mounted inside a machine cabinet to compute all accounting features while the present invention takes all accounting features including credits purchased, credits played, credits earned, credits replayed, credits dispensed, etc. from the games processor unit. Furthermore, since the present invention is contained within the games board, it is not possible to link or network one game with other multiple units as is envisioned by LeStrange '079 and Kelly '426.

The present invention is a game of infinite duration, determined only by the speed and desire of the player, in which winning combinations are selected both by the game processor unit as well as player input. Kelly '426 and Kelly '611 are games of finite duration in which the games processor unit selects all winning combinations or goals. The present invention is a game featuring varying levels of awards that may all be won within a single play of a game, and provides no token return to a player as the present invention is not a "guaranteed no-lose" game, unlike Kelly '426 and Kelly '611. The present invention also provides for the increase of wages or bets during various stages of a games as well as the ability of a player to increase the amount of paid credits during the play of a game if necessary unlike Kelly '426 and Kelly '611. The present invention permits an operator to manually change a game apparatus from the separation of paid and won credits, to the combined category of credits, depending upon the restrictions of a given jurisdiction.

Unlike Kelly '426, Kelly '611, and LeStrange '079, the present invention does provide a printed voucher for won credits, but will not provide a printed voucher for paid credits. All paid credits must be used or played by a player and may not be refunded through printed vouchers. All printed vouchers are of a constant value or denomination, not determined by pricing of any particular prize.